

South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice

REPORT CARD

for 2008





The Bill Rogers Community Connections Center

A REPORT CARD TO OUR CITIZENS

As we present you with our fifth annual "Juvenile Justice Report Card," DJJ and the state of South Carolina face a crucial crossroads which has forced us to make many tough decisions and which has put much of the agency's progress in peril. As a result, the 2008-09 fiscal year has been a very bittersweet year for DJJ. On the one hand, we have achieved many successes and improvements. On the other hand, the agency currently faces a budget crisis which has forced us to cut funding for many of our best programs and has cost us many staff members.

This year we saw the completion of two new dormitories and our new 10,000 square-foot "Bill Rogers Community Connections Center," on our Broad River Road Complex in Columbia. These modern, secure facilities have replaced obsolete and less secure dormitories and visitation areas. They are a vital part of a long-term security effort that has allowed the agency to maintain a record of long-term incarceration that has not seen a single escape in over five years.

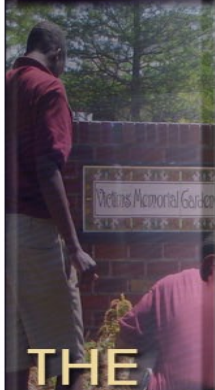
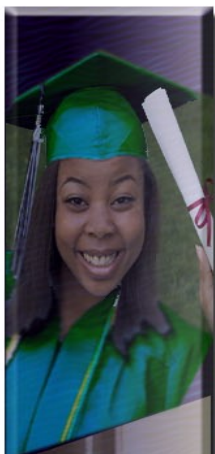
The Rogers Center was also constructed entirely with private funds raised by the "Friends of Juvenile Justice" foundation. We believe this is the first time that a private foundation has made such a generous contribution to a state penal institution.

However, while these improvements and many others you will read about in this Report Card are sources of pride for the agency, many of our programs have been sacrificed to recent budgets cuts. Our juvenile employment program (JEEP), which offered much-needed job training to juveniles in the community, has unfortunately been eliminated. We have been forced to close three group homes and had to cut support for our Gang Reduction Intervention Program (GRIP) and Teen After-School Center (TASC) program. The agency also faces staff shortages and mandatory furloughs, further threatening our progress. In the face of even more cuts on the horizon, it is unclear if 2009-10 will show continuing progress or a regression to earlier years when the agency was under great strain.

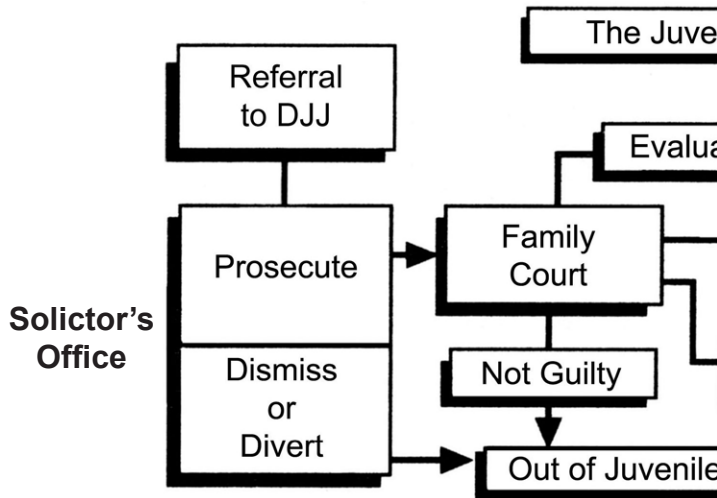
We hope you will take time to study this Report Card and join in our efforts to help make communities safer, to better satisfy victims of crime, and to rehabilitate juvenile offenders.

Bill Byars

Director, South Carolina
Department of Juvenile Justice



THE
FACE
OF
CHANGE

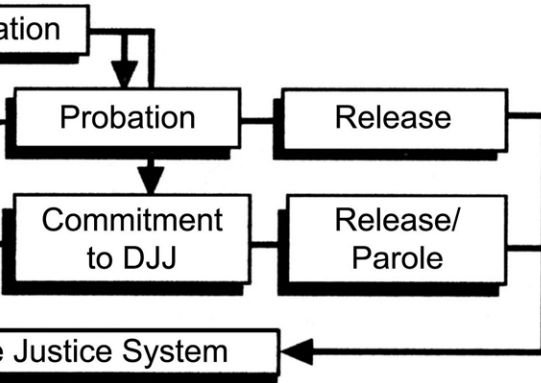


Juveniles usually enter the juvenile justice system in South Carolina when they are taken into custody by law enforcement or when a Solicitor or a school refers them to DJJ. At this stage, personnel at a DJJ county office usually interview the juvenile. DJJ has offices in 43 of South Carolina's 46 counties. Law enforcement also may elect to send the juvenile to a South Carolina juvenile detention center, pending a hearing.

After county office or detention center personnel have interviewed a juvenile, DJJ makes recommendations to the Solicitor's office regarding the case. The Solicitor has a number of options available when deciding how to pursue a case. A Solicitor may choose to divert a juvenile to a community program (such as a drug court or juvenile arbitration program) or require the juvenile to make restitution for the offense. Solicitors also may choose to proceed with prosecution or to dismiss a case entirely.

If the Solicitor chooses to prosecute, the next stage of the process involves the family court. A family court judge determines the guilt or innocence of the juvenile and sentences those juveniles adjudicated delinquent (found guilty). Often a judge will request a DJJ evaluation of the juvenile before making a final ruling, or prior to commitment. This involves psychological, social, and educational evaluations conducted either in the community or at one of DJJ's three regional evaluation centers. The resulting comprehensive evaluation helps the judge decide how to proceed in the best interests of the juvenile, victim, and community.

Juvenile Justice Process



A family court judge may find the juvenile is not delinquent (not guilty). After a finding of delinquency, the judge has several sentencing options. Chief among these is probation, which maintains the juvenile in the community under DJJ supervision. The judge may also commit the juvenile to DJJ custody by imposing a determinate (fixed amount of time) or indeterminate sentence. An indeterminate sentence allows the youth to be confined up to the age of 21.

Upon indeterminate commitment, a juvenile will be given a time range or “guideline,” determined by the state Board of Juvenile Parole (for all felonies and select misdemeanors) or DJJ’s own release authority (for most misdemeanors and all status offenses). This range is based on the severity of the juvenile’s offense and his history of previous offenses. These guidelines can run anywhere from 1-3 months up to 36-54 months. The Board and DJJ use these guidelines – along with an evaluation of the juvenile’s behavior and progress – to determine the length of incarceration.

Juveniles may remain incarcerated beyond their guideline (up to their 21st birthday). They may also be paroled prior to their minimum guideline for exceptional behavior and progress.

Juveniles may be granted conditional or unconditional releases. A conditional release might involve requiring the juvenile to complete a local aftercare program or program at a wilderness camp or group home. A conditional release also involves a period of parole supervision. DJJ county officers supervise juveniles on parole, much as they supervise juveniles on probation.

For more detailed information visit DJJ’s website at:
www.state.sc.us/djj/process.php

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Cases

Referred to DJJ

2007 – 2008	23,826
2006 – 2007	24,699
2005 – 2006	25,820
2004 – 2005	26,213
2003 – 2004	27,328

CASE REFERRALS TO DJJ: In FY 2007-08, 23,826 cases were referred to DJJ. Data collected by DJJ and Juvenile Arbitration Programs (early intervention) at the time offenders exited the juvenile justice system revealed that 70 percent of the population was male, 58 percent was African-American, and the average age was 15.4 years.

Five Most Frequent Offenses Associated with Referrals to DJJ

- #1 Disturbing Schools
- #2 Simple Assault & Battery
- #3 Public disorderly Conduct
- #4 Shoplifting
- #5 Simple Possession of Marijuana

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES ASSOCIATED WITH REFERRALS TO DJJ: The #1 charge associated with cases referred to DJJ statewide was disturbing schools. The number of disturbing schools cases has increased 60% in the last ten years, raising questions about the causes. No felony offenses occurred in the top five reasons for referral to DJJ.

Offenders Diverted by Juvenile Arbitration Programs

2007 – 2008	5,086
2006 – 2007	5,294
2005 – 2006	5,215
2004 – 2005	4,879
2003 – 2004	4,670

OFFENDERS DIVERTED BY JUVENILE ARBITRATION PROGRAMS: Juvenile Arbitration is a program operated in all 16 judicial circuits in South Carolina to divert first-time, non-violent juvenile offenders from the court. In the program, trained citizen volunteers work with offenders/parents, victims, and law enforcement to determine appropriate sanctions.

Daily Population Close of FY 2006-07

	2008	2006
Hardware Secure Custody	691	838
Staff Secure Custody (community placements)	595	563
Multi-Agency Placements	196	179
Therapeutic Foster Care	64	41
Marine Programs	95	89
Mental Health Placements	45	32
Total:	1,426	1,522

DAILY POPULATION AT DJJ: At the close of Fiscal Year 2007-08, a daily population of 691 juveniles was held in hardware-secure facilities at DJJ. This is nearly an 18 percent drop in the hardware secure custody population over a two-year period. This drop correlates with the increased use of staff secure community placements such as wilderness camps and group homes.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

CUSTOMER SERVICES

Customers = Victims, Offenders, and the Community

Five Most Frequent Offenses Resulting in DJJ Commitment

- #1 Probation Violation,
- #2 Contempt of Court
- #3 Simple Assault & Battery
- #4 Aggravated Assault & Battery
- #5 Burglary 2nd Degree Non-violent

FIVE MOST FREQUENT OFFENSES RESULTING IN DJJ COMMITMENT:

In FY 2007-08, the #1 charge associated with commitment to DJJ statewide was probation violation. The #2 charge was contempt of court. A probation violation or contempt of court charge occurs when the juvenile violates the rules of his or her probation or court order.

Youth Served by TASC

2077-2008	*506 Youth
2006-2007	286 Youth
2005-2006	196 Youth
2004-2005	105 Youth

*Participation has increased by nearly 400% in four years

TEEN AFTER SCHOOL CENTERS (TASC):

TASCs are after-school programs that provide mentoring, tutoring, and supervised recreation in the critical after-school hours. During FY 2007-08, 87 percent of youth served stayed in school while participating. Over 31 percent of students improved school performance, and a similar percentage improved attendance.

DJJ School District Graduates

2007 – 2008	176
2006 – 2007	149
2005 – 2006	134
2004 – 2005	167
2003 – 2004	167

SCDJJ SCHOOL DISTRICT GRADUATION RATE:

DJJ operates its own school district for incarcerated offenders, currently with high school and middle school programs accredited by the South Carolina Department of Education. For the fifth year, DJJ's school district received the "Palmetto Gold" award. During FY 2007-08, DJJ students taking the GED had a passage rate of 64 percent, as compared to the state's passage rate of 62%.

Notification to Victims Regarding Case Status

2007 – 2008	*16,004
2006 – 2007	15,450
2005 – 2006	14,950
2004 – 2005	13,480
2003 – 2004	10,335

*Notifications have increased more than 35% in 5 years

NOTIFICATION TO VICTIMS: DJJ strives to serve crime victims. Upon request, victims of juvenile crime are notified regarding the status of the offender(s) related to their individual cases through the Internet Victim Information System (IVIS) provided by DJJ. In fiscal year 2007-08, DJJ notified 16,004 victims regarding their case status.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

ACCOUNTABILITY — A Restorative Benchmark

(Repairing the harm to victims and community)

Restitution to Victims

# of Cases:	958
Amount Ordered:	\$ 501,326
Amount Paid:	\$ 357,228
85% of Offenders Paid in Full	

RESTITUTION: Offenders are expected to pay back victims of crime for the harm they have caused. Of 8,297 cases closed during FY 2007-08 where restitution was ordered, 85 percent of offenders paid in full. The total amount of restitution collected was \$357,228.

Restorative Community Work Service Hours

# of Cases:	3,343
Hours Ordered:	97,672
Hours Worked:	83,910 (86%)
\$ Value:	\$ 432,137 (calculated at minimum wage)

WORK SERVICE: Offenders also are expected to perform work service as a restorative gesture to the community. In 8,297 cases closed during FY 2007-08, 97,672 hours of community work service were ordered. The number of work service hours completed was 83,910, which is 86 percent of the work service ordered.

Victim Satisfaction

How would you rate your overall experience with the system? (Rated 1 to 5 with 1 being "most negative" and 5 being "most positive.")

	2008	2007
Rated "5"	67%	42%
Rated "4"	15%	40%
Rated "3"	10%	18%
Rated "2"	5%	0%
Rated "1"	3%	0%

MEASURING SYSTEM ACCOUNTABILITY:

The justice system has a responsibility to serve crime victims. Over the past 5 years, crime victims across South Carolina were surveyed to determine their level of satisfaction with the juvenile justice system. Victims were asked to rate their overall experience with the juvenile justice system. On a rating scale with 1 being most negative to 5 being most positive, 82 percent of victims surveyed rated their satisfaction at either a four or a five.

A Report Card to Our Citizens

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COMPETENCY—A Restorative Benchmark

(Offenders developing skills needed to live crime free)

Drug & Alcohol Abuse Offenders Testing Negative

Number Tested: 1,437

Percent Tested
Negative: 69%

RESISTANCE TO DRUG & ALCOHOL USE:

In 8,297 cases closed during FY 2007-08, 17 percent of youth were tested while under supervision in the community. Of those youth tested, a negative result occurred in 69 percent of cases. Marijuana was involved in 85 percent of all positive tests.

School Participation

Youth Enrolled in
Educational Program or Vocational
Training at Case Closure:
7,110 Youth
(86%)

Youth Not Enrolled but
Employed at Case Closure
34 Youth
(2.9%)

SCHOOL PARTICIPATION: During FY 2007-08, 86 percent of the 8,297 youth completing court orders or Juvenile Arbitration Program sanctions were enrolled in school, an alternative education program, or vocational training. Of the 1,187 youth not involved in an alternative educational or vocational program, and who were age-eligible (16 years old) to work, 34 were employed.

Employability Training

Youth Completing Job
Readiness Training:

684 Youth

Required Hours of Paid Work
Experience Completed:

80 Hours/Youth

JUVENILES EXPERIENCING EXCELLENCE

PROGRAM (JEEP): JEEP was introduced in FY 2004-05 to improve the employability of at-risk youth. In JEEP, youth ages 14-18 receive job readiness training and paid on-the-job work experience. During 2007-08, 684 youth and 150 business partners participated in the 19 programs established across the state. Due to budget cuts, this program was eliminated in November 2008.

Citizen Participation

of Volunteers: 1,688

Hrs. Contributed: 104,656

Value: \$612,237
(calculated at minimum wage)

CITIZEN PARTICIPATION/COMMUNITY COM-

PETENCY: During FY 2007-08, 1,688 volunteers stepped forward to assist DJJ and the Solicitors' Arbitration Programs as mentors, arbitrators, tutors, auxiliary probation officers, in other capacities in the community, and in DJJ facilities. Citizen volunteers helped to make our communities safer by contributing approximately 104,656 hours of services.

COMPETENCY

COMMUNITY SAFETY — A Restorative Benchmark
(Protecting the public)

12-Year Comparison of
Violent & Serious
Juvenile Cases in
South Carolina

Year	# of Cases
2007-08	2,229
1995-96	3,077

Table A
Juveniles Committed to
the Custody of DJJ

Year	Number
2007-08	2,024
2006-07	1,968
2005-06	1,952
2004-05	1,867
2003-04	1,977

Table B
Daily Population
Juveniles Held in DJJ's
Detention Center

Year	Number
2007-08	105
2006-07	122
2005-06	132
2004-05	108
2003-04	106

Recidivism Rate
Juvenile Offenders on
Probation/Parole or in
Arbitration Programs

Number of Offenders	Recidivism Rate
8,297	14%

VIOLENT & SERIOUS JUVENILE CASES:

Over the past 12-year period (1996 – 2008) violent and serious juvenile cases in South Carolina decreased nearly 28 percent. The number of cases includes juveniles referred more than once during the fiscal year.

TRENDS IN JUVENILE JUSTICE: One indicator of trends in South Carolina's juvenile justice system is the number of offenders committed into the custody of DJJ. Table A compares the number of offenders sentenced to DJJ custody over the past five years. At the close of FY 2007-08, there had been no escapes from hardware-secure long term institutions in 1,826 days (5 years).

Another indicator of trends is the number of juveniles being held in DJJ's Detention Center pending court action. Juveniles detained by the family court and law enforcement agencies and determined to be high-risk offenders are held in detention centers. DJJ's Detention Center had a drop in the daily population during FY 2007-08. This drop correlates with detention reform efforts implemented by DJJ with the assistance of the University of South Carolina's Children's Law Center. However, detention rates still exceed the Center's design capacity of 72 beds.

LAW-ABIDING BEHAVIOR: Recidivism is the rate at which juveniles are charged with a new offense. Of the 8,297 cases closed during FY 2007-08, 86 percent of offenders on probation or parole, or in Juvenile Arbitration Programs did not re-offend while under supervision.

2008 Restorative Initiatives Building Partnerships, Ensuring Public Safety, Providing Customer Services

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Building Community Partnerships

- **Columbia College** – Through a Bank of America grant, Columbia College partnered with DJJ to implement a leadership curriculum for girls.
- **SC Vocational Rehabilitation Department (SCVRD)** – DJJ and SCVRD signed a contract to cost share a Vocational Rehabilitation counselor. The counselor provides vocational services for youth in the custody of DJJ.
- **SC Department of Social Services and the Darkness to Light organization** – In collaboration with DSS and the Darkness to Light organization, DJJ undertook the training of 1,000 agency staff in the Stewards of Children sexual abuse curriculum.
- **Georgetown University** – Under the auspices of Georgetown University's Center for Juvenile Justice Reform, DJJ, in partnership with the SC Department of Social Services, was selected to participate in an initiative to develop effective case management services for young people served by both the foster care and the juvenile justice system.
- **The Children's Law Center at USC** – DJJ partnered with the Children's Law Center to establish two projects focused on the need for detention reform in South Carolina's juvenile justice system; a detention case expediting system and a detention screening risk assessment instrument.
- **Clemson University** – DJJ's partnership with Clemson University continued to thrive as the Youth Learning Institute refined its Youth Development Program, encouraged teacher training in divergent learning, and supported programming for girls.
- **AME Church** – DJJ partnered with the AME Church to expand the Auxiliary Probation Officer (APO) Program to cover 12 counties with over 100 volunteers. In the APO Program, volunteers are trained to provide one-on-one intensive probation services to a juvenile and his or her family.

Ensuring Public Safety

- **Intensive Supervision Program** – DJJ's Intensive Supervision Program prepares youth leaving long term facilities and provides intense supervision upon release, making their home communities safer, while redirecting the lives of high risk offenders. This program was expanded statewide.



NEW INITIATIVES

2008 Restorative Initiatives (continued)

- **Gang Reduction and Intervention Program (GRIP)** – DJJ introduced GRIP, a program aimed at reducing gang activity. GRIP promotes services that address prevention, intervention, and supervision needs.
- **Electronic Monitoring Systems** – DJJ expanded the use of electronic monitoring statewide to enhance the supervision of juveniles and serve as a safe response to the need for alternatives to detention/incarceration.
- **Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) Training** – To insure the safety of youth in the custody of DJJ, the agency mandated PREA training for all staff.
- **Understanding Sexual Assault & Trauma Training** – DJJ's Victim Services Office presented the training, Understanding Sexual Assault & Trauma, to DJJ staff, as well as victim advocates from sister agencies.
- **Replacement Dormitories Built** – Two replacement dorms were built on Broad River Road. They were designed to promote best practice in behavior management, and juvenile/staff safety.

Providing Customer Services

- **Bill Rogers Community Connections Center** – Construction was completed on the Rogers Center, a 10,000 square foot family visitation/activity building on Broad River Road. It was funded entirely through private donations to the Friends of Juvenile Justice.
- **Victim's Memorial Garden** – Built by DJJ youth, the Victim's Memorial Garden was dedicated as a service to their community. The garden remembers victims of crime.
- **Culinary Arts Program** – DJJ's school district added Culinary Arts as a Career and Technology Education (CATE) program that is certified by the State Department of Education.
- **Mechatronics Program** – DJJ's school district contracted with Palmetto Training Institute to offer a "for credit" Career and Technology Mechatronics Program. Mechatronics combines mechanical, electrical and software engineering for diverse systems in a range of industries.
- **Teen After-School Centers (TASC) & Juveniles Experiencing Excellence Program (JEEP)** – TASC and JEEP were developed in 2004 as skill building and employability programs for at-risk youth. During four years, TASC participation grew by nearly 400% and JEEP grew by over 500%.

Special Thanks to DJJ's Performance
Measurements Partners

The Honorable David M. Pascoe
Solicitor, 1st Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Barbara R. Morgan
Solicitor, 2nd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable C. Kelly Jackson
Solicitor, 3rd Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jay E. Hodge, Jr.
Solicitor, 4th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable W. Barney Giese
Solicitor, 5th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Leon Lott
Sheriff, Richland County

The Honorable Douglas A. Barfield, Jr.
Solicitor, 6th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Harold W. Gowdy, III
Solicitor, 7th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Jerry W. Peace
Solicitor, 8th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Scarlett A. Wilson
Solicitor, 9th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Chrissy T. Adams
Solicitor, 10th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Donald V. Myers
Solicitor, 11th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable E. L. Clements, III
Solicitor, 12th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Robert M. Ariail
Solicitor, 13th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Isaac M. Stone, III
Solicitor, 14th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable J. Greg Hembree
Solicitor, 15th Judicial Circuit

The Honorable Kevin S. Brackett
Solicitor, 16th Judicial Circuit

Helping Resources for Families and Crime Victims

Parent Support and Training

Parents Anonymous SC (800) 326-8621

Services for People with Disabilities & Special Needs

SC Department of Disabilities &

Special Needs (803) 898-9600

Pro Parents (parent support/training) (803) 770-3859

Services for People with Mental Health Needs

SC Department of Mental Health (803) 898-8581

SC Continuum of Care (803) 245-5147

Federation of Families (866) 770-0402

Job Training & Education Services for Youth

SC Vocational Rehabilitation (803) 641-7630

Job Corps (803) 245-5105

Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School (803) 896-6480

Residential Services for Girls

Florence Crittenton Home

(serves pregnant girls) (864) 772-7526

Crossroads Group Home (864) 246-0266

Alcohol/Drug Abuse Treatment/Counseling Services

SC Department of Alcohol

& Other Drug Abuse Services (803) 896-5555

Palmetto Treatment Center (843) 747-5830

William J. McCord Adolescent Treatment Facility (803) 534- 2328

Residential Services for Children

SC Association of Children's

Homes & Family Services (803) 996-5437

Carolina Children's Home (803) 782-1241

Connie Maxwell Children's Home (864) 942-1400

Epworth Children's Home (803) 256-7394

Services for Victims of Crime

SC Crime Victim's Ombudsman (803) 734-1900

SC Victim Assistance Network (SCVAN) (803) 750-1200

For additional information regarding resource needs, or services provided by
DJJ, please go to **www.state.sc.us/djj**.



DJJ's Mission

The Governor's mission is to raise personal incomes of South Carolinians by creating a better environment for economic growth, delivering government services more openly and efficiently, improving quality of life, and improving our state's education.

The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice supports the Governor's mission by protecting the public and reclaiming juveniles through prevention, community programs, education and rehabilitative services in the least restrictive environment.

For more information contact:
The South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice
Office of Community Justice
(803) 896-9766
www.state.sc.us/djj

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